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(72) Inventors:
• Dames, Andrew Nicholas
Cambridge CB4 1HU (GB)
• Crossfield, Michael David
West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6SD (GB)

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(74) Representative: Abrams, Michael John
Haseltine Lake & Co.,
Imperial House,
15-19 Kingsway
London WC2B 6UD (GB)

(71) Applicant: Flying Null Limited
Harston, Cambridge CB2 5NH (GB)

(54) Magnetic markers

(57) An improved EAS tag is disclosed. The tag is characterised in that the or one of the magnetic materials on the tag is divided into distinct zones such that the zones and their relative positions can represent information or a code which is readable magnetically by passing the tag through a magnetic field which comprises

a relatively small region of zero magnetic field (a magnetic null) contiguous with regions where the magnetic field is sufficient to saturate said magnetic material, the tag being moved through the magnetic field and its magnetic response being detected as it traverses the magnetic null.

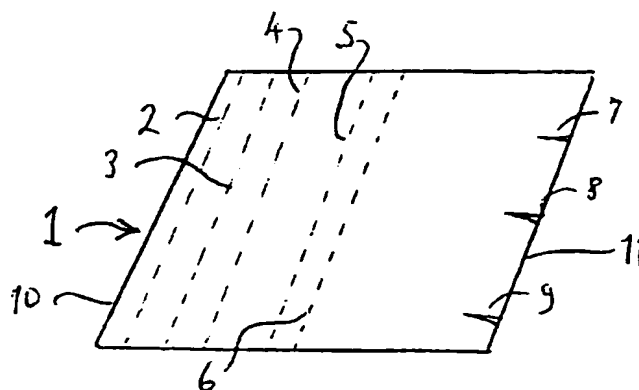


Fig. 1.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 7492

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.8)
			G06K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		11 November 1999	Degraeve, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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